

REMARKS

In the Office Action issued on October 3, 2005, the Examiner finally rejected all pending claims based on art considerations. The Applicant has fully considered the Office Action and submits this Reply and Amendment in response to the Examiner's rejections. The Applicant is submitting this Reply and Amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §116 in order to place the claims in better condition for appeal, should an appeal be taken. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the application. Issuance of an advisory action relating to the status of this amendment is also requested.

EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on January 5, 2006, in which the claims, cited references, and the amendments presented herein were discussed. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiner's comments and suggestions are appreciated.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the earlier Office action mailed on December 9, 2003, the Examiner indicated that original claim 26, as filed, defined patentable subject matter. The Examiner objected to the claim as being dependent on a rejected base claim (independent Claim 1 as originally filed).

To address this objection, the Applicant has herein added new Claim 50 to define this allowable subject matter in independent form. New Claim 50 accurately reflects original Claim 26; it has simply been rewritten in

independent form to include all intervening limitations, including those of original independent Claim 1.

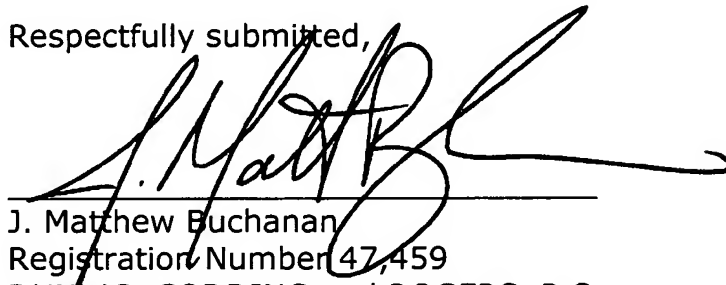
NEW CLAIMS 51 THROUGH 63

The Applicant herein requests entry of new claims 51 through 63. These claims are directed to a particular form of the devices taught by the invention in which an ink formulation is used (claims 51 through 61) and a method for monitoring the sterilization of an article with plasma as a sterilant (claims 62 and 63). All of these new claims are fully supported by the application as filed (see, for example, the discussion appearing at the top of page 15 through the middle of page 16; the discussion appearing at the bottom of page 17 through the top of page 18; and the discussion at the bottom of page 3). No new matter has been introduced.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has fully responded to the rejections issued by the Examiner in the October 3, 2005 Office Action. All claims presented herein define patentable subject matter and should be recognized as such. Entry of the amendments made herein and a Notice of Allowability are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Matthew Buchanan", is written over a horizontal line.

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